

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Production of Flame Throwers and Flame-Thrower Practice

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1. [REDACTED] VEB Teerdestillation und Chemische Fabrik Erkner, Erkner, has delivered regular supplies to VEB Gaselan, Fuerstenwalde /Spree, of highly volatile, liquid fuels that arrive in small rail tank cars.
2. In the former depth-bomb department of the former Julius Pintsch plant (VEB Gaselan, Fuerstenwalde), Russian Army flame throwers are repaired and new ones manufactured. This department is supervised by Russian Engineer Corps officers, assisted by VP officers. The complement of workers is composed of skilled labor of Polish, Czech, and German origin. The Germans are former employees of the old Pintsch concern which was engaged in war production for the former German Airforce. The department is manned by 56 men.
3. The equipment is taken from the plant in Russian trucks under military escort. The transports leave after dark and proceed to the arms depot in Fuerstenwalde/Spree.
4. Flame-thrower practice takes place in Silberberg, am Scharmützelsee. Because of the great similarity between Russian and East German uniforms, it has not been ascertained whether or not VP members of the KVP take part in these exercises.
5. Since early November, 1952, 4 two-axle tank cars have delivered the above-mentioned fuel from Fuerstenwalde to Erkner.

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